

## CHEROKEE SCHOOL DISTRICT

PO Box 460  
Gaffney, SC 29342

**GRADES** PK-12

**ENROLLMENT** 8,848 Students

**SUPERINTENDENT** Dr. William B. James 864-902-3500

**BOARD CHAIR** Mr. Jerry McDaniel 864-839-6723

**FISCAL AUTHORITY** District Board

## THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

### ANNUAL DISTRICT REPORT CARD

# 2003

#### ABSOLUTE RATING:

AVERAGE

Absolute Ratings of Districts with Students like Ours

Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Unsatisfactory
1	4	15	1	0

#### IMPROVEMENT RATING:

AVERAGE

#### ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS:

N/A

#### SOUTH CAROLINA PERFORMANCE GOAL

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the fastest improving systems in the country.

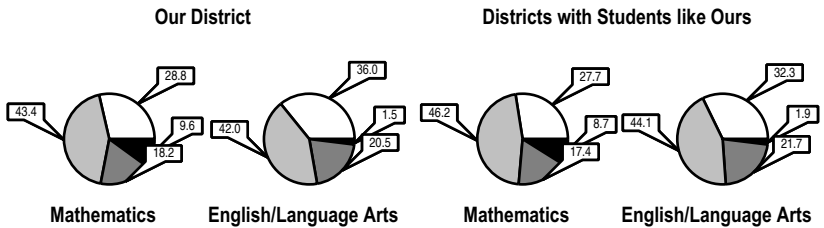
**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WEBSITES AT:**

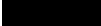



[WWW.MYSCSCHOOLS.COM](http://WWW.MYSCSCHOOLS.COM)

[WWW.SCEOC.ORG](http://WWW.SCEOC.ORG)

**PERFORMANCE TRENDS OVER 4-YEAR PERIOD**

	<b>Absolute Rating</b>	<b>Improvement Rating</b>	<b>Adequate Yearly Progress</b>
2001	Average	Below Average	N/A
2002	Average	Average	N/A
2003	Average	Average	N/A
2004			

**PALMETTO ACHIEVEMENT CHALLENGE TESTS (PACT) RESULTS****Definition of Critical Terms**

	<b>Advanced</b>	Very high score; very well prepared to work at next grade level; exceeded expectations
	<b>Proficient</b>	Well prepared to work at next grade level; met expectations
	<b>Basic</b>	Met standards; minimally prepared, can go to next grade level
	<b>Below Basic</b>	Did not meet standards; must have an academic assistance plan; the local board policy determines progress to the next grade level

**NOTE:** Science and social studies are to be included in the 2005 school report card.

**TENTH GRADE PASSAGE OF ONE OR MORE SUBTESTS OF THE EXIT EXAM**

	<b>Our District</b>			<b>Districts with Students Like Ours</b>		
<b>Percent</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>Passed all 3 subtests</b>	60.0	57.1	61.2	66.7	62.8	64.2
<b>Passed 2 subtests</b>	16.9	18.8	19.0	17.1	19.0	17.7
<b>Passed 1 subtest</b>	13.9	12.6	11.8	9.9	11.5	10.3
<b>Passed no subtests</b>	9.1	11.5	7.3	6.3	6.8	7.1

**ELIGIBILITY FOR LIFE SCHOLARSHIPS**

<b>Percent of</b>	<b>Our District</b>	<b>Districts with Students Like Ours</b>
<b>Seniors eligible for LIFE Scholarships at four-year institutions*</b>	10.2	12.3
<b>Seniors who met the SAT requirement</b>	10.2	12.7
<b>Seniors who met the grade point average</b>	55.7	53.5

\*Using only the SAT and grade point average requirements

PACT PERFORMANCE BY GROUP

	Enrollment 1st Day of Testing	% Tested	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	% Proficient and Advanced	State Objective
English/Language Arts								
All students	4,330	99.6	36.0	42.0	20.5	1.5	22.0	17.6
Gender								
Male	2,180	99.4	42.2	41.1	15.8	0.9	16.7	17.6
Female	2,150	99.7	29.7	42.9	25.3	2.0	27.3	17.6
Racial/Ethnic Group								
White	2,948	99.5	28.7	44.6	24.8	1.8	26.6	17.6
African-American	1,253	99.8	52.2	36.8	10.3	0.7	11.0	17.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	23	100.0	28.6	23.8	47.6		47.6	17.6
Hispanic	101	99.0	50.6	34.1	14.1	1.2	15.3	17.6
American Indian/Alaskan	2	100.0						17.6
Disability Status								
Not disabled	3,829	99.8	31.5	44.1	22.7	1.7	24.4	17.6
Disabled	501	97.8	72.3	24.8	3.0		3.0	17.6
Migrant Status								
Migrant		0.0						17.6
Non-migrant	4,330	99.6	36.0	42.0	20.5	1.5	22.0	17.6
English Proficiency								
Limited English proficient	61	98.4	77.6	14.3	8.2		8.2	17.6
Non-limited English proficient	4,269	99.6	35.3	42.5	20.8	1.5	22.3	17.6
Socio-Economic Status								
Subsidized meals	2,497	99.5	46.7	39.5	13.3	0.5	13.8	17.6
Full-pay meals	1,830	99.7	22.1	45.3	29.9	2.7	32.6	17.6

Mathematics								
All students	4,330	99.8	28.8	43.4	18.2	9.6	27.8	15.5
Gender								
Male	2,180	99.8	31.0	41.3	17.9	9.8	27.6	15.5
Female	2,150	99.8	26.5	45.5	18.6	9.4	28.0	15.5
Racial/Ethnic Group								
White	2,948	99.8	22.5	44.3	21.1	12.1	33.2	15.5
African-American	1,253	99.8	43.5	41.5	11.2	3.7	15.0	15.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	23	100.0	4.8	47.6	23.8	23.8	47.6	15.5
Hispanic	101	100.0	40.7	38.4	16.3	4.7	20.9	15.5
American Indian/Alaskan	2	100.0						15.5
Disability Status								
Not disabled	3,829	99.9	24.6	44.9	19.9	10.6	30.5	15.5
Disabled	501	99.0	63.3	30.8	4.3	1.6	5.9	15.5
Migrant Status								
Migrant		0.0						15.5
Non-migrant	4,330	99.8	28.7	43.4	18.2	9.6	27.9	15.5
English Proficiency								
Limited English proficient	61	100.0	60.0	30.0	6.0	4.0	10.0	15.5
Non-limited English proficient	4,269	99.8	28.2	43.6	18.4	9.7	28.2	15.5
Socio-Economic Status								
Subsidized meals	2,497	99.8	38.1	43.6	13.3	5.0	18.4	15.5
Full-pay meals	1,830	99.7	16.7	43.2	24.5	15.5	40.1	15.5

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A	Not Applicable	N/C	Not Collected	N/R	Not Reported	I/S	Insufficient Sample
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**PACT PERFORMANCE BY GRADE LEVEL**

		Enrollment 1st Day of Testing	% Tested	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced and Proficient
English/Language Arts							
2002	Grade 3	670		29.3	37.4	31.1	33.3
	Grade 4	671		27.0	47.5	24.1	25.5
	Grade 5	685		34.3	48.1	16.9	17.5
	Grade 6	637		37.2	39.7	20.3	23.1
	Grade 7	705		34.9	47.1	16.5	18.1
	Grade 8	662		39.1	40.7	18.5	20.2
2003	Grade 3	714	99.9	22.3	38.1	36.4	39.6
	Grade 4	723	99.7	32.2	41.9	24.3	25.8
	Grade 5	735	99.5	37.0	44.8	17.6	18.2
	Grade 6	712	99.9	45.3	36.0	16.6	18.7
	Grade 7	681	99.4	36.3	47.9	15.3	15.8
	Grade 8	765	99.1	42.2	43.3	13.4	14.5

Mathematics							
2002	Grade 3	670		27.6	39.8	20.6	32.6
	Grade 4	671		25.5	37.4	20.4	37.1
	Grade 5	685		33.6	41.2	17.7	25.2
	Grade 6	637		33.0	42.2	18.3	24.8
	Grade 7	705		42.8	33.2	14.9	23.9
	Grade 8	662		44.7	39.8	11.6	15.5
2003	Grade 3	714	99.9	17.9	49.5	20.6	32.6
	Grade 4	723	99.9	23.9	42.7	20.3	33.4
	Grade 5	735	99.7	28.3	45.2	18.6	26.4
	Grade 6	712	99.9	30.1	35.5	23.4	34.4
	Grade 7	681	99.6	33.8	41.8	14.2	24.4
	Grade 8	765	99.9	38.2	45.3	12.4	16.5

**STATE PERFORMANCE ON NATIONAL TESTS**

**Terra Nova:** a national, norm-referenced achievement test.

Percentage of students scoring in the upper half, 2002								
Grade	Reading		Language		Math		Total	
	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation
3	49.2	50.0	51.5	50.0	58.2	50.0	54.8	50.0
6	57.6	50.0	49.0	50.0	51.2	50.0	51.4	50.0
9*	56.1	50.0	46.8	50.0	51.6	50.0	51.2	50.0

\* Grade 9 estimates were based on a sample that may not be representative of the entire 9th grade population.

**National Assessment of Educational Progress:** a national, criterion-referenced achievement test.

			Percent of students scoring							
Test	Grade	Year	Advanced		Proficient		Basic		Below Basic	
			State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation
Reading	8	2002	1	3	23	30	44	43	32	25
Writing	4	2002	1	2	16	26	65	58	18	14
Mathematics	8	2000	2	5	15	22	37	38	45	34

**PERFORMANCE BY STUDENT GROUPS**

	Exit Exam Passage Rate by Spring 2003		Eligibility for LIFE Scholarships*		Graduation Rate	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>All Students</b>	479	93.1%	402	10.2%	465	77.2%
<b>Gender</b>						
Male	227	91.6%	183	11.5%	224	73.7%
Female	248	94.8%	219	9.1%	241	80.5%
<b>Race or Ethnic Group</b>						
African American	131	87.8%	109	1.8%	139	71.2%
Hispanic	6	66.7%	3	I/S	9	33.3%
White	337	95.8%	289	13.5%	316	81.0%
Other	1	I/S	1	I/S	1	I/S
<b>Disability Status</b>						
Non-speech disabilities	9	88.9%	11	0.0%	39	20.5%
Students without disabilities	466	93.3%	391	10.5%	0	82.4%
<b>Migrant Status</b>						
Migrant	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A
Non-migrant	10	90.0%	402	10.2%	0	N/A
<b>English Proficiency</b>						
Limited English proficient	3	I/S	2	I/S	4	I/S
Non-LEP	470	93.4%	400	10.3%	455	78.5%
<b>Lunch Status</b>						
Subsidized meals	136	86.0%	128	0.0%	161	75.2%
Full-pay meals	338	96.2%	274	15.0%	304	78.3%

\* Using only the SAT and grade point average requirements

n = number of students on which percentage is calculated

**2002-2003 COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TESTS**

SAT	Verbal		Math		Total	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
District	457	470	472	472	929	942
State	488	493	493	496	981	989
Nation	504	507	516	519	1020	1026

ACT	English		Math		Reading		Science		Total	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
District	18.6	18.8	19.2	18.6	19.8	19.5	19.2	19.3	19.3	19.2
State	18.8	18.7	19.1	19.0	19.3	19.4	19.2	19.2	19.2	19.2
Nation	20.2	20.3	20.6	20.6	21.1	21.2	20.8	20.8	20.8	20.8

**SCHOOLS IN "SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT STATUS"**

**DISTRICT PROFILE**

	Our District	Change from Last Year	Districts with Students Like Ours	Median District
<b>Students (n= 8,848)</b>				
First graders who attended full-day kindergarten	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Retention rate	0.1%	Down from 4.6%	4.1%	4.0%
Attendance rate	94.8%	Down from 94.9%	95.4%	95.4%
Meeting grade 1 & 2 readiness standards	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Eligible for gifted and talented	16.3%	Up from 15.5%	11.2%	10.7%
On academic plans	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
On academic probation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
With disabilities other than speech	6.6%	Down from 7.1%	11.4%	10.6%
Older than usual for grade	2.3%	No change	5.5%	5.5%
Suspended or expelled	1.3%	Up from 1.2%	1.3%	1.6%
Enrolled in AP/IB programs	8.8%	N/A	N/A	10.0%
Successful on AP/IB exams	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Enrolled in adult education GED or diploma programs	474	Down from 519	170	186
Completions in adult education GED or diploma programs	69	Down from 107	59	40

**Teachers (n= 624)**

Teachers with advanced degrees	54.3%	Down from 54.5%	43.9%	47.8%
Continuing contract teachers	84.8%	Down from 87.5%	84.1%	82.8%
Highly qualified teachers	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Teachers returning from previous year	91.7%	Down from 91.9%	89.3%	89.5%
Teacher attendance rate	95.3%	Up from 95.1%	95.0%	95.1%
Average teacher salary	\$40,617	Up 0.3%	\$38,959	\$39,707
Prof. development days/teacher	10.6 days	Up from 10.4 days	11.6 days	11.3 days

**District**

Superintendent's years at district	3.0	Up from 2.0	2.0	3.0
Student-teacher ratio	22.2 to 1	Up from 20.1 to 1	20.8 to 1	20.6 to 1
Prime instructional time	88.5%	Down from 88.6%	89.1%	89.0%
Dollars spent per pupil*	\$7,083	Up 1.7%	\$7,318	\$7,412
Percent spent on teacher salaries*	56.8%	Up from 54.2%	56.8%	56.0%
Opportunities in the arts	Excellent	No change	Excellent	Excellent
Parents attending conferences	99.0%	No change	98.2%	96.1%
Number of schools	18	No change	11	8
Number of magnet schools	0	No change	0	0
Number of charter schools	0	No change	0	0
Portable classrooms	2.1%	Down from 6.0%	2.4%	3.5%
Average age in years of school facility	21	N/A	25	26
Number of schools with SACS accreditation	18	N/A	10	8

\* Prior year audited financial data are reported.

	Our District	State
Highly qualified teachers in low poverty schools	N/A	N/A
Highly qualified teachers in high poverty schools	N/A	N/A

**Abbreviations for Missing Data**

N/A	Not Applicable	N/C	Not Collected	N/R	Not Reported	I/S	Insufficient Sample
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**SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNANCE****Board Membership**

9 trustees elected to single-member seats

**Fiscal Authority**

District Board

**Average Number of Hours of Training Annually** 20.0 per board member**Percent new trustees completing orientation** 100.0%**DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Cherokee County School District is the second largest business in Cherokee County. The school district employs more than 1200 educators and support staff and has an operating budget of \$51,228,000. Eleven elementary schools, four middle schools, two high schools, a technology center, and a district alternative program provide a world-class learning environment for more than 9,000 students. Construction of two more elementary schools is in the planning stages with additions planned for Grassy Pond and Northwest Elementary schools.

The district's mission emphasizes " . . . that all students have the skills necessary to compete and excel as responsible citizens in the global workplace." More than six million dollars in scholarships in 2003, an average SAT score of 1388 by the top 5% of high school graduates, a 100% pass rate for calculus and computer science Advanced Placement exams, more than 250 students receiving Life or Palmetto Scholarships, and 34 eighth graders named Junior Scholars reflect the standard of excellence among district students. Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) data showed improvement in math and English/language arts at every grade level.

A well-trained instructional staff implements effective instructional programs. Sixty-one percent of Cherokee County teachers hold at least a master's degree. Twenty-three teachers have National Accreditation. More than \$828,600 in grant monies is used to train teachers and school administrators in the development of programs and strategies to improve instruction driven by state standards.

Major District Programs include:

A \$1,333,000 grant for reading enrichment and developmental activities for elementary students;

A Balanced Literacy Model of language arts instruction teaching elementary students to read, write, listen, and spell;

The Six Traits Writing Method program helping K-12 students become better writers, readers, and test-takers;

Cherokee County School District and community forces implementing the "First Steps to Readiness" program, expanding emphasis on early childhood education.

The combined efforts of supportive parents, excellent students, dedicated and determined educators, and a concerned and caring community 'make a difference' for Cherokee County children.

Dr. William James, Superintendent

**DEFINITIONS OF DISTRICT RATING TERMS**

- Excellent - District performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Good - District performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Average - District performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Below Average - District is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Unsatisfactory - District performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal